



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 24, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

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CONCURRENT CREDIT TASK FORCE HOLDS FIRST MEETING (GO TO TOP)

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced this week the members of the Concurrent Credit Task Force, who will develop a statewide concurrent credit program to give all high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school.

"Idaho students should have the same advanced opportunities that high school students in other states across the country are already enjoying," Superintendent Tom Luna said. "The work of this task force will be critical as we continue to improve Idaho's education system so every Idaho student leaves high school prepared to live, work and succeed in the 21st century."

The Idaho Legislature allocated \$50,000 for Superintendent Luna to create the task force. Currently, Idaho high school students can take concurrent credit courses at colleges and universities, but the students and their families must bear the costs of these courses. The goal of the task force is to develop a statewide plan in which high schools students are given the opportunity to earn college credits at no cost to the student if they meet certain academic requirements.

The 24 members of the task force represent superintendents, principals, school board trustees, classroom teachers, professional-technical education, parents, legislators and higher education. The task force met for the first time from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at the State Department of Education offices in Boise. At the initial meeting, the task force outlined its goals and objectives and also heard presentations from the concurrent credit programs at Boise State University, College of Southern Idaho, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College, North Idaho College, Northwest Nazarene University and the University of Idaho.

The task force plans to meet at least once a month for the rest of the year and present a final proposal to the Governor, Idaho Legislature and State Board of Education in January 2009. For more information on the Concurrent Credit Task Force or other State Department of Education initiatives, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/initiatives/>.



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The following is a list of members of the Concurrent Credit Task Force:

- Melvin Beutler, Superintendent of the West Side School District
- Senator Diane Bilyeu, Senator of District 29
- Barbara Bishop, Enrollment Coordinator at Idaho State University
- Steve Casey, Dual Enrollment Coordinator at North Idaho College
- Rebecca Casper, Parent in Idaho Falls School District
- Mary Pat Cavanaugh, Parent in Wallace School District
- Mark Cotner, Executive Director of the Canyon-Owyhee School Service Agency
- Debbie Critchfield, Chair of the Cassia County Joint School District Board of Trustees
- Clete Edmunson, Special Assistant to the Governor
- Selena Grace, Research Analyst/Grants Developer for the State Board of Education
- Angela Hoops, Counselor in the Buhl School District
- Jared Jenks, Principal of Sugar Salem High School
- Fabiola Juarez-Coca, Concurrent Enrollment Director at Boise State University
- Alex LaBeau, Executive Director of the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry
- Cynthia Leonhart, Associate Registrar at the University of Idaho
- Tom Luna, Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Kathy Martin, Dean of Community Programs at Lewis-Clark State College
- John Miller, Instructional Dean at the College of Southern Idaho
- Barb Potthast, Teacher at Burley High School
- Chad Struhs, Assistant Superintendent of the Blackfoot School District
- Donagene Turnbow, Chair of the Post Falls School District Board of Trustees
- Donna Vakili, Executive Director of Idaho Digital Learning Academy
- Dennis Waller, Academic Director of the Concurrent Credit Program at Northwest Nazarene University
- Representative Fred Wood, Representative of District 27, House Seat B

REMINDER ABOUT REQUIREMENTS OF SENATE BILL 1443 (GO TO TOP)

On the Post-Legislative Tour, staff of the State Department of Education discussed a new law the Idaho Legislature passed in 2008, which requires that each Board of Trustees adopt a policy for its district, by no later than September 1, 2008, allowing students to use epinephrine auto-injectors for severe allergic reactions. This is in the same section of law as the existing requirement that boards allow the use of inhalers for students with asthma or other life-threatening respiratory illnesses. Students are to be allowed to carry and self-administer these drugs on school grounds, though the district may require that a duplicate copy of the prescription be kept on file with the school nurse, or, in the absence of a school nurse, with the school's administrator.

For more information on Senate Bill 1443, please visit <http://www3.state.id.us/oasis/S1443.html>.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

Office Location
650 West State Street

Telephone
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired
1-800-377-3529

Fax
208-334-2228



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- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Idaho Summer Institute of Best Practices conference on Tuesday, July 29 in Idaho Falls.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Governor's Capital for a Day event in Emmett on Wednesday, July 30.
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Idaho Summer Institute of Best Practices conference on Thursday, July 31 in Wendell.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Middleton High School at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 31 in Middleton.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Comments on proposed board rule** – The State Department of Education requested feedback from the public earlier this year on a proposed board rule that will help implement House Bill 566a, a bill that passed the Idaho Legislature earlier this year and amended Idaho Code 33-130 and Idaho Code 33-512(15). This law affects fingerprinting and Criminal History Checks for personnel working in school buildings. The listing of comments and the Department's response to the comments are now available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/default.asp>. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Haas at (208) 332-6888 or SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov.
- **CORRECTED: Kuna awarded PEP grant** – The Kuna Joint School District was recently awarded a Physical Education Program (PEP) grant for \$572,000. The Weekly E-Newsletter on July 17 published an incorrect amount. The Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) provides grants to initiate, expand and improve physical education programs for K-12 students in order to help them make progress toward meeting state standards for physical education. Funds may also support staff and teacher training and education.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **New IRI materials for 2008-2009** – Please remember the State Department of Education is mailing new testing materials for the 2008-2009 Idaho Reading Indicator. Do not use testing materials from the previous school year to administer the IRI in 2008-2009. Old materials may be used as practice guides. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Fisk, Reading Coordinator, at (208) 332-6927 or JFisk@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Alternative Authorization deadline** – The Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will be conducting a meeting to approve Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate district requests on **August 11, 2008**. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to this date. You can mail applications to:
State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Oravez
PO Box 83720



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- **IBEDS codes** – The listing of 2008-2009 IBEDS Endorsements to IBEDS Assignment Codes are now available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/datacollection/ibeds/>. The listing will be a useful tool for school officials to use in assigning/staffing their programs this fall.

- **Attendance and Enrollment workshops** – Here is the schedule of workshops:

Thursday, August 7th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Friday, August 8th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Tuesday, August 12th	Idaho Falls	Taylorview Jr High, 350 Castlerock Ln, Idaho Falls
Wednesday, August 13th	Pocatello	Pocatello District Office Board Room, 3115 Pole Line Rd Pocatello
Thursday, August 14th	Jerome	Summit Elementary, 200 West 10th Street, Jerome
Monday, August 18th	Coeur d'Alene	Midtown Meeting Room, 1505 N 5th Street, Coeur d'Alene Lewiston District Office Board Room, 3317 12th Street, Lewiston
Tuesday, August 19th	Lewiston	Lewiston

For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/financeandtechnology/default.asp> and click on the “Attendance and Enrollment Workshop” link listed under “Training” in the column to the right of the page.

- **Oregon Trail Learning Experience** – The Idaho chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association invites all Idaho educators to participate in the 2008 convention of the Oregon-California Trail Association. The convention will be held August 4-9, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. University credit is. Registration information is posted at www.idahooccta.org or you can contact Cathy Bournier with the Division of Tourism Development at (208) 334-2470 for more information.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Aug. 7, 2008** – The Annual Superintendents’ Meeting will be held at the Meridian School District offices in Meridian. To register, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/administrators.htm>.
- **Aug. 8, 2008** – The New Superintendents’ Meeting will be held at the State Department of Education offices in Boise. To register, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/administrators.htm>.
- **Aug. 29, 2008** – The deadline to submit applications for Safe Routes to School funding to the Idaho Transportation Department. For more information, visit www.itd.idaho.gov and click on “Safe Routes to School.”
- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit nominations for Idaho Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education. Applications for the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year are now available on the State Department of Education’s Web site at www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear. Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year.